

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The priority papers were filed 09 March 2004 with the completion papers. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

The claims stand rejected primarily on US 6,903,034 of Putnam. This reference shows a fabric-making system similar to that of the instant invention and column 14, lines 33ff state "The nonwoven fabric of the present invention may further comprise a secondary chemical treatment to modify the surface of the final fabric." In other words after performing steps admittedly comparable to steps a) (forming filaments), b) (collecting the filaments into a spun-bond web, and d) hydrodynamically consolidating the spun-bond web, Putnam performs step c) of treating the filaments with a wetting agent. Putnam makes it clear in the discussion of a "final fabric" that the "chemical treatment" is the last step.

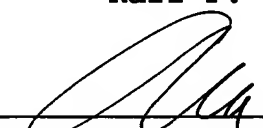
Thus claim 1 has been amended to specifically state that the hydrodynamic consolidation takes place after treatment with a wetting agent. Thus amended claim 1 clearly defines a different method from that of Putnam. Since nothing in Putnam suggests that

the filaments should be chemically treated prior to hydrodynamic consolidation, the rejection under §103 on Putnam must fall.

All of the claims in the case are therefore clearly in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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01 November 2006
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Enclosure: Request for extension (three months)